

# ***PRESS RELEASE***

STATE SENATOR DAN CLEMENS – 20<sup>TH</sup> DISTRICT



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Missouri Senate

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## **Weekly Capitol Report**

JEFFERSON CITY - Missouri faces many challenges in the coming months and many important issues that directly impact all of our lives. As your State Senator, my duty is to bring your voice as citizens and taxpayers to Jefferson City. As part of my continued effort to improve our state and the services provided for my constituents, I have sent out a survey addressing many of the issues brought to the forefront during the state of the state address. Please complete and return the surveys when you receive them.

After five days of debate on the strongly supported and justified name change of Southwest Missouri State University to Missouri State University, the bill received first round Senate approval.

The measure was brought to a vote after 15 long hours of debate on Tuesday. The filibuster, led by Sen. Jacob, D-Columbia, ceased at 2 a.m. Wednesday morning with a suggested compromise linking final passage of the name-change bill with a University of Missouri sponsored bond issue proposal. It is unfortunate that this simple, justified name change is being held for ransom.

I believe that the name change measure brings proper recognition to this great institution of knowledge as a major educational resource in our state. This change will help the university, the state of Missouri and also enhance the economic and educational benefits it brings to our

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region. The institution has sought the new name for nearly two decades. I am very encouraged by the strong vote of support. The proposal is good for our area, good for SMSU and good for Missouri.

The measure passed by a vote of 27-4, far more than the 18 votes needed to pass the Senate. The vote shows the strong bipartisan support across the state. This broad-based support shows the importance of this change for all Missourians.

By reflecting the growth of the institutions with a new name, we appropriately build on their successes and accomplishments without detracting from other institutions in our state. Through the support of our legislative delegation and the help we've received from our area, the bill will advance to secure recognition of Missouri State University as an outstanding institution that serves the educational needs of students and enhances the economic strength of all of Missouri.

Despite days spent on this filibuster, and redundant debate by a handful of Democratic senators, this measure succeeded because it is of statewide importance. Selfish interests should not prevent a vote that will benefit all of Missouri. SMS deserves to be MSU!

Many issues will be on the legislative agenda, and I want to make sure your opinion is heard on these important issues. Again, please complete and return the surveys.

As always, I appreciate your opinion on any legislative matter. If you have any questions or concerns to share, please call me at 1-866-242-0810, or e-mail me at [dan\\_clemens@senate.state.mo.us](mailto:dan_clemens@senate.state.mo.us).

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